

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

I don't believe the proponent's assertion that the broadcast flag would not interfere with my legitimate copying for personal use. I believe they have zero incentive to protect my interest, and will trample me if so allowed.

I do not want any mandate for equipment to block recording of material I am viewing in my own home. I want to be able to record material for later viewing, for viewing in an alternate location (e.g., my laptop or RV).

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices?
I do not want any mandate that any equipment - especially receiving or decoding equipment - mark, flag or otherwise direct or control the passing across my home network of any content which is available for my viewing.

Would the broadcast flag requirement limit consumers ability to use their existing electronic equipment (equipment not built to look for the flag) or make it difficult to use older components with new equipment that is compliant with the broadcast flag standard?

I don't want any mandate that will render any of my existing equipment, including my computer, unable to record content that I am able to view.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Any mandate that limits my ability to make copies of material for my own use limits my interest in purchasing new equipment. I don't want any limitations place upon the possible technical capabilities of future equipment with regard to recording, copying, and altering content that is available for my viewing.

Other Comments:

I don't believe the focus of government in the area of piracy control should be on availability of technologies of any sort. Mass producers of pirated material will always be able to circumvent such simple techniques as a broadcast flag.

Use of home copying technology is primarily for legitimate uses by the viewers to whom the content was originally intended. Any misuse of this technology should be addressed at the point of misuse - such as the importation or marketing of pirate copies - and not at the point of any enabling technology. We are not talking about nuclear bomb material here, and we should not approach it with the kind of priorities that say possible misuse of home copying technology should outweigh the standard or intended uses of the technology.